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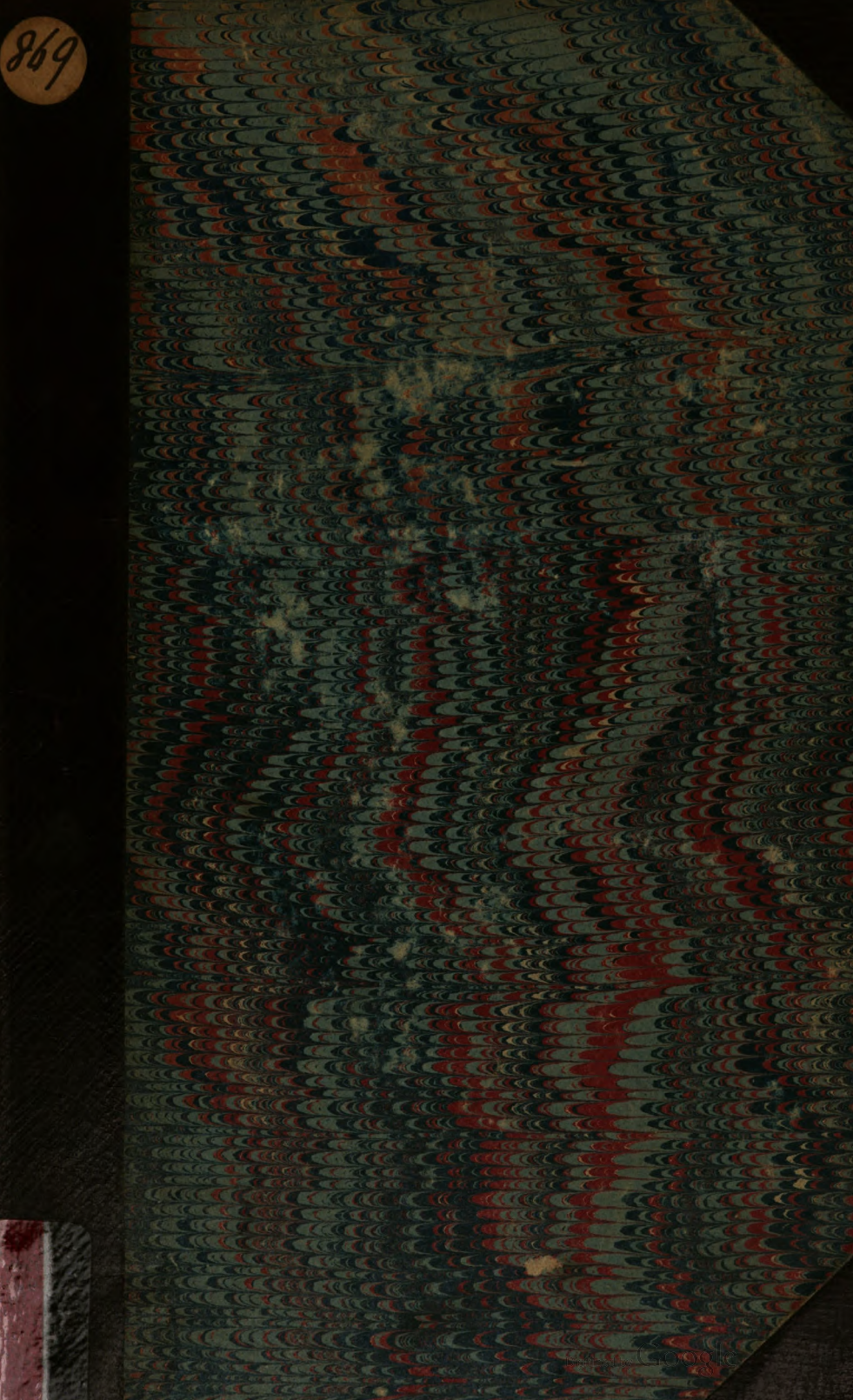
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# GENERAL ACCOUNT

OF THE  
C A L A M I T I E S  
OCCASIONED BY THE LATE TREMENDOUS  
HURRICANES AND EARTHQUAKES

IN THE  
WEST-INDIA ISLANDS,  
Foreign as well as Domestic

WITH  
The PETITIONS to, and RESOLUTIONS of, the  
HOUSE of COMMONS, in Behalf of the Sufferers  
at Jamaica and Barbados :

ALSO  
A LIST of the Committee appointed to manage the  
Subscriptions of the benevolent Public, towards their  
further Relief.

Carefully collated from Authentic Papers,

BY MR. FOWLER.

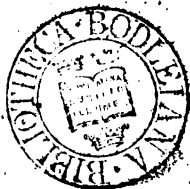
" For he that gives the little in his power,  
" The World acquits, and Heav'n demands no more."

L O N D O N :

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## INTRODUCTION.

**I**T is observable that men of the best hearts and greatest talents are agitated by the most violent passions ; and so it is, that the West India islands, which boast of the richest soil and the most valuable productions, are more subject to hurricanes and earthquakes than any other part of the world. Philosophers have thought, that these phenomena are in some degree generated by accumulated blasts of wind from the vast lakes in North America, about the autumnal equinox ; but whatever the causes may be, the effects are unmercifully severe. The first noted earthquake is that at Jamaica, June 7th 1692, when Port-Royal was totally sunk ; and so soon after as 1697 and 1722, we also read of other visitations of the same kind both there and in the environs, particularly at St. Domingo, insomuch that the frequency of these calamities ought to operate as admonitory lessons to the inhabitants, though it is impossible but they must be too often productive of the most fatal consequences

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ces to them, for which reason the sufferers are justly intitled to commiseration, and every relief which the emotions of sensibility and affection can administer on such occasions, exclusive of political considerations.

And, indeed, so great has been the national concern for the present distresses of these unhappy colonists, that our propensity for acts of benevolence appears in the most amiable light—We are more ready to give than they to ask. Foreigners admire our characteristic generosity. Portugal is not less grateful for our friendly offices with respect to the restoration of Lisbon, than Barbados is for that of Bridgetown: nor will this island or Jamaica, which have always demonstrated an unshaken loyalty to their sovereign, ever forget the obligations that now await them.

To comprehend the degree of their calamities, a bare perusal of the accounts we are already furnished with will be sufficient—the flowers of rhetoric are superfluous, when the most artless language must melt the obdurate, and incline them to pity even enemies in similar situations. Happy England! the temperature of whose climate exempts her from the war of the elements, though  
not

not from the ravages of perfidy and ambition!

It having been suggested, that a compilation of authentic papers and documents might be serviceable to the cause of humanity, there requires little or no apology for this pamphlet. It will also save much trouble to the curious, and be a faithful record of perhaps the most complicated and universal catastrophe that ever yet befel the islands under our immediate contemplation.



# GENERAL ACCOUNT, &c.

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## SECTION I

### ACCOUNTS FROM JAMAICA.

*Copy of a Letter from Major General Dalling, Governor of the Island of Jamaica, to Lord George Germain, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, received by his Majesty's Sloop Alert, Captain Vashon, and published in the London Gazette, Jan. 12, 1781.*

My Lord,

Jamaica, Oct. 20, 1780.

I AM sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of informing your Lordship of one of the most dreadful calamities that has happened to this colony within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

On Monday the 2d instant, the weather being very clofe, the sky on a sudden became very much overcast, and an uncommon elevation of the sea immediately followed. Whilst the unhappy settlers at Savanna la Mar were observing this extraordinary

nary phænomenon, the sea broke suddenly in upon the town, and on its retreat swept every thing away with it, so as not to leave the smallest vestige of man, beast, or house behind. This most dreadful catastrophe was succeeded by the most terrible hurricane that ever was felt in this country, with repeated shocks of an earthquake, which has almost totally demolished every building in the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, part of St. James's, and some part of Elizabeth's, and killed numbers of the white inhabitants, as well as of the negroes. The wretched inhabitants are in a truly wretched situation, not a house standing to shelter them from the inclemency of the weather, nor cloaths to cover them, every thing being lost in the general wreck; and, what is still more dreadful, famine staring them full in the face.

To obviate in some degree the consequence of this most dreadful calamity, I have called a meeting of the Kingston merchants, who have generously sent down to the unhappy sufferers £10,000 value in different kinds of provisions, cloathing, &c. which will be a temporary relief, until their distresses can be more effectually relieved, either from home or from America, whither I am sending some vessels in quest of rice, or such other provisions as can be procured. In the parish of Westmoreland the damage, by the report of the committee appointed to take into consideration the amount of their losses, amounts to £950,000 this currency. In that of Hanover, one-fourth of the absolute property is lost for ever. In that of that of St. James's the ravage, though very great, yet has not been so fatal as in the other two.

In

In short, my Lord, the devastation is immense. The inclosed paper may give your Lordship some faint idea of the distresses of the poor inhabitants, who now look up to their most gracious sovereign, in their truly calamitous situation, for some alleviation of their very great sufferings.

The Monarch transport having the Spanish prisoners from St. John's on board, sailed from Savanna la Mar, on her way to Kingston, on the 1st of October; but not having been heard of since, it is much feared that she also has experienced the dreadful effects of the late hurricane, and that every soul on board perished.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JOHN DALLING.

*Copy of a Letter from the Inhabitants of Savanna la Mar to Governor. Dalling, dated October 8, 1780.*

S I R,

THE remaining distressed inhabitants of the place where Savanna la Mar once stood, beg leave to acquaint your Excellency of a most dreadful calamity which befel that unfortunate town on Tuesday the 3d instant. The weather had appeared very indifferent for some days before, but that morning the wind became more violent than usual, with a most terrible swell of the sea, which, by afternoon, increased to such a degree, that it has not left the wreck of six houses on both the bay and Savanna, and not less than 300 people of all colours were drowned or buried in the ruins;  
such



such terrible havock was never seen in the memory of the oldest person here, nor can words or writing convey an idea suitable to the present scene.

Our accounts from the country, and also from Hanover, are equally melancholy; scarce a house standing on any estate, and all the provisions destroyed. It is some comfort, however, to understand, that the violence has not extended very far, and that the line may, perhaps, be drawn from Bluefields directly northwards.

What alarms us most at present is the dread of famine, which stares us in the face; and if we have not some speedy relief of bread-kind, the few that have survived that unfortunate day will most probably fall victims to the more miserable fate of perishing with hunger. In this distress we must look to the town of Kingston for relief; their humanity, it is to be hoped, will not suffer us to perish for want, or take any advantage of our misery and wretchedness, which God knows is almost as great as it can be, seeing the calamity has been so general, that no one can help his neighbour; neither have many of us shelter for our heads from the inclemency of the weather, or cloaths to cover us; even fire, dreadful as it is, is nothing to what we have so lately experienced.

We have likewise addressed the admiral on this occasion, which we inclose open to your excellency, and have no doubt you will back it with all your influence.

As a specimen of the destruction of the inhabitants, we mention that of Dr. King's house, in which were ten whites and about forty negroes, and not

not a single person out of the whole has escaped drowning. The sea flowed up half a mile beyond its usual bound, even to the height of ten feet.

We are, &c.

Ja<sup>s</sup> Wallace  
Geo. Richardson  
B. W. Blake  
Samuel Bell  
Tho. Tomlinson  
John Tomlinson  
W. Antrobus  
Dav. Finlayson  
Ja<sup>s</sup>. Steele  
J. Munro  
Arch. Duthie  
G. Noble  
Rob. Baker  
Tho. Thistlewood  
James Robertson

Geo. Woodbine  
J. Merrick Williams  
Geo. Murray  
H. Duncan  
W. D. Williams  
R. Chambers  
J. Chambers  
Geo. Inglis  
John Munro  
Rob. Pinckney  
John Dickson  
Eliz. Welter  
Marg. Wallace  
B. Barjam.

*Admiralty Office, Jan. 2, 1781.*

*Lieutenant Messervy, of his Majesty's sloop Alert, arrived at this office last night with dispatches from Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Parker, commander in chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at Jamaica, to Mr. Stephens, dated the 6th of November 1780, of which the following is an extract :*

HIS majesty's brig the Alert having again been obliged to put back with the governor's dispatches and mine, and applications having been made to me from the governor and council, and the lee-  
B ward

ward parishes of this island that have suffered most by the late hurricane on the 2d ult. for a king's vessel to be sent express to England with the account of the calamity, I have altered the destination of the Alert, and she is to sail to-morrow express for England.

It is with much concern that I give the following detail of the disasters which have befallen some of the ships and vessels on this station in the late hurricanes. The fourth of last month, at half past five in the morning, his majesty's ship the Phoenix was wrecked on the island of Cuba, about three leagues to the eastward of Cape Cruz, in a most dreadful hurricane; and, according to Sir Hyde Parker's representation, if she had not been drove on shore, she must soon have foundered; all the ship's company were saved except twenty, most of whom were lost, with the main-mast, and washed overboard: Sir Hyde Parker dispatched his first lieutenant, Mr. Archer, in one of the ship's boats to Montego Bay for assistance; and by the 11th all that remained of the ship's crew, to the number of two hundred and forty, were embarked on board of his majesty's sloop Porcupine, and three shallops, and arrived safe in Montego Bay the 15th instant. His majesty's sloops the Barbados and Victor, and his majesty's ship the Scarborough, were in the hurricane. The two former, it is apprehended, are foundered, but the latter, I am in hopes, is safe; she was under orders to proceed to St. Juan's on the Spanish main, and as the hurricane run in veins she may have escaped, as well as the Pallas, Diamond, Pelican, and Lowestoffe, who

who were also at sea at the time, and are all arrived safe, without any damage whatever.

The Pomona arrived the 24th with the bowsprit and fore-mast sprung, and mizen-mast gone: and on the 26th Rear-Admiral Rowley arrived in the Grafton with the following ships, from convoying the trade part of their way to Europe, viz. Hector, Bristol, Trident, and Ruby, all of them disabled, and mostly dismasted.

The Ulysses arrived the same day without main or mizen-mast, having thrown all her upper deck guns overboard.

Captain Stewart has informed me that he is going to England with the Berwick dismasted. I hope that the Thunderer and Stirling Castle are also on their passage home; for I have not as yet received any intelligence of those ships.

By the different accounts which I have received, I find that the late storms have visited the windward islands as well as the seas. The 28th past his majesty's ship the Egmont arrived here from St. Lucia totally dismasted, and her frame much shaken. On the 29th the Endymion arrived at this port from a cruize to the windward of Martinico, with only the fore-mast standing. She brought in with her two French ships, named the Marquis de Brancas and the L'Eöle, which she took on her way hither. The former was laden with provisions, and the latter had one hundred and fifty foldiers on board, part of the regiment of Touraine, commanded by a Captain de Marcy. These two ships were on the 11th of October forced, with many others, out from St. Pierre's Road, Martinico, by the violence of the storm.

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## FROM THE KINGSTON GAZETTE.

*Montego Bay, Oct. 7.*

ON Monday night the 2d instant, about twelve o'clock, there came on a storm of wind and rain, which continued with unremitting perseverance and violence from the south-east, until twelve o'clock on Tuesday; the weather appeared to be then a little moderated, and continued so much abated until between three and four o'clock in the evening, as to furnish no immediate indications of an approaching storm. About four o'clock the wind seemed to be quite southerly; but increased (accompanied with incessant rain) to such an amazing degree, as about dark to threaten general ruin and destruction. The darkness of the night added now fresh horrors to the general apprehensions; and a circumstance which, on ordinary occasions, would have been considered as peculiarly terrifying (the immense and prodigious flashes of lightning which regularly succeeded each other) was an alleviation to the general consternation, and the only security to the very few whose peculiar situations permitted or inclined them to venture through the streets, and afford comfort and relief to the distresses of their neighbours. About twelve o'clock, from the best of our information, and our own recollection, the storm began to abate; but the many instances of desolation and distress, which even then presented themselves to our view, and which we began to be apprized of from different quarters of the town, afforded suggestions to the mind, which rendered the approach of morn truly terrible.

Our

Our descriptive powers, we acknowledge, are inadequate to the task of impressing our readers with proper ideas of the many and variegated scenes of calamity and distress which the new day presented to our view; the face of nature seemed totally changed! the mountains, as if weary of their load, and drooping under the pressure of a superior influence, which they could neither support or resist, had adopted a new form, and appeared dismantled of those lofty verdant trees, which constituted their grandeur and excellence, and formerly had rendered them beautiful and agreeable to the sight.

It is impossible, at present, to recount the particular losses of every individual; many houses in this town have been destroyed; among the principal sufferers are Mr. Vincent, Dr. Mottershead, the estate of James Lugg, Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Stothert, and the barracks of Fort Frederick. The darkness of the night rendered it impossible to attend to the fate of the ships *Lady's Adventure* and *Lenox*, which were in the harbour when the storm commenced; the most probable and favourable conjecture which could be made upon their being missed in the morning, was their having put to sea in the night, and no symptoms of wrecks having yet appeared to discredit this conjecture, we are in hourly and impatient expectation of seeing them, or hearing of their safety. All the smaller craft in the harbour, together with the ship *Petersfield*, which had been preserved and repaired after the shipwreck of last February, are all totally lost; and the brigantine *Jane*, which had gone down a few days before to  
Great

Great River, a place of apparent safety, had been drove ashore, but we are informed will be got off with very little damage.

Our informations from the country are truly alarming; few estates in this parish have escaped without some damage; many sets of works and dwelling-houses are thrown down; the canes in general have suffered much; but the loss of all the plantain-walks, without exception, is an aggravation of the general calamity, which cannot fail of exciting sentiments of compassion and regret for the condition of our fellow-creatures, who may suffer from the loss of the most essential part of their support.

What we have yet recited falls far short of the accounts which we hourly receive of the damage done in Hanover and Westmoreland. On Lucea Bay only two houses remain standing, and his majesty's sloop Badger, which happened to be in the harbour, notwithstanding her being held by three anchors a-head, was drove ashore by the violence of the storm, with the loss of her masts; but we are informed will be got off. An universal devastation and ruin has prevailed in the country; all the estates and works are almost totally destroyed; the dwelling-house of Batchelor's Hall, Saltspring, Campbellton, Kendall, and of the whole parish in general, are thrown down and in ruins; numbers of negroes, and many white people, are said to be lost; those of the latter description, who have yet come to our knowledge, are Mess. M. and S. Dias, gentlemen of the Jewish nation, much respected and regretted by all their acquaintances; and a carpenter at Houghton Tower estate.

Our

Our accounts from Westmoreland are not authentic : from some gentlemen, however, who are arrived from the assizes held there, we learn, that Savanna la Mar is entirely demolished, not a single house having resisted the violence of the storm but Mr. Lopez's, and that all the shipping in the harbour are drove ashore. We have no authority for saying any thing of the situation of the estates in that parish ; but there is too much reason, we fear, to apprehend that they have suffered equally with those in Hanover.

In alleviation to these accumulated scenes of disaster and distresses, we are nevertheless happy to inform our readers, that our information from windward is much more favourable than we expected, few estates in Trelawny having sustained any other loss than that of some plantain-walks thrown down, and cane-pieces lodged ; and that the damage done in St. Ann's is still less inconsiderable : we have, however, to regret the fate of the ship Elliot, which lay in Rio Bueno harbour ; we are informed that she was drove on shore, but will be got off with little loss.

We cannot conclude this account of the dangers we have surpassed, the disasters which have happened to individuals, the general calamity which so materially affected and changed the common order of things, and threatened a general and total wreck and dissolution of nature, without contemplating that divine and omnipotent Providence who mercifully interposed in our preservation, and has yet left us in a situation capable in time, by application and industry, of overcoming our hardships and difficulties.

St.



*St. Jago de la Vega, Oct. 12.*

In addition to the relation of the dreadful effects of the late hurricane published in the Cornwall Chronicle, and which we have extracted for the satisfaction of our readers, we have yet the painful task of communicating such particulars of its ravages in the parish of Westmoreland as have come to our knowledge. On the afternoon of Tuesday the 3d instant, about three o'clock, the wind began there to blow very hard from the south-east, accompanied with heavy rains; and by four had acquired such strength, as to tear the trees up by the roots, and strip the houses of their shingles. Between five and six the sea began to rise, and continued for near an hour to swell to a most amazing height, overflowing the ill-fated town of Savanna la Mar and the low lands adjacent. From this time until eight o'clock, the force of the winds, and the impetuosity of the waves, overthrew and demolished every house in that unfortunate place, and buried most of its inhabitants in the ruins. A little after eight it began to abate, but nevertheless continued to blow very hard until midnight, when the wind veered round to the westward. No pen can describe the horrors of the scene which the morning presented to the sight of the few who survived to lament the fate of their wretched neighbours; the earth strewed with the mangled bodies of the dead and dying, some with broken limbs, who in that situation had been tossed about during the storm, and afterwards left on the wet naked earth, to languish out the night in agonies, with no hand to help them, or eye to pity them. Humanity recoils at the contemplation of such unheard-of calamities;

lamities ; and every feeling heart must melt at the bare recital !

We are informed by gentlemen who are just arrived from that quarter, that the bodies of eighty white persons have already been found, and many more are expected to be dug out of the ruins ; and that it is thought not less than four hundred whites and negroes must have perished in and about Savanna la Mar.

The ships Henry, Princess Royal, and Austin Hall, then at anchor in the harbour, with two or three doggers, were driven from their moorings, and carried a considerable way up into the morass, from whence it will be impossible to get them off. The Princess Royal had four anchors out, and the crew were attempting to get out a fifth, when the wind carried it fairly off the deck some distance into the sea. One of the ships went over the fort, the parapet of which at other times is about fifteen feet above the level of the water. The Trimmer, a packet from Raitan, which lay at Bluefields, was likewise sent ashore, but all the hands were saved, though some belonging to the other vessels were lost.

Throughout the whole parish of Westmoreland, from the best information we can obtain, there is not a dwelling-house, out-house, or a set of works, on any of the estates left standing. The canes, corn, plantain-trees, and every production of the earth destroyed. At one estate, Blue Castle, report says, that 200 negroes were killed in a boiling-house, whither they had fled for shelter. Along the sea-coast many dead bodies scattered about, probably driven ashore from some wreck, meet

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the eye of the passenger, and one uniform scene of desolation and devastation overspreads the face of that part of the country.

From St. Elizabeth our accounts are much more favourable. Some estates there have suffered, but in a far less degree than those in Westmoreland, Hanover, and St. James, over which the greatest force of the hurricane seems to have passed. At Black River a few houses are overthrown, but none of any consequence. Some plantain-walks, canes and corn pieces are likewise destroyed.

A letter from Lucea says, that upwards of 400 persons, white and black, perished in that town and neighbourhood.

Last night, a few minutes after ten o'clock, two smart shocks of an earthquake were felt here.

*Montego Bay, Oct. 14.*

*List of white People found dead and missing from the late dreadful Hurricane on the 3d instant.*

Mrs. Gibson and two children; Charlotte Woodroffe and child; Eleanor Little; Tho. King, his wife and four children; Dr. James Forbes; Alexander Dallas; Captain Mason's child; James Nesbitt; Mrs. Ward; William Antrobus jun. Arthur Hornby; Donald M'Lean, wife and child; Patrick M'Dowall; Cornelius Chapman; James Hollister; Richard Wigley; Moses Nunez jun. Isaac Nunez; Mrs. Slap; T. Carter; Catherine M'Dowell; Elizabeth Cateness; Dr. S. J. Lightfoot; William Lowther; Mrs. Appleby and child; Mrs. Allwood and child; John Fitzgerald; Aaron Touro; Rachael Touro; Charles Payne's child; three

three gentlemen from the north side; Mrs. Curphy's two children; Elizabeth M'Dowell; Mrs. Fowler and one child; Robert Johnson; Mr. O'Conacher; Mr. Finch, a carpenter; Mr. M'Leod, a Taylor; N. Thomson; Corporal Wills; Mrs. Newstead; Antonio and two Children; Donald Campbell; a white man that came passenger in Captain Harvey from town; and John Scoon. Total of whites 63. About 50 mulattoes, and 250 negro slaves.

The ship *Lenox*, which, together with the *Ladies Adventure*, was drove to sea the night of the storm, is returned again with the loss of her main-mast, and is since gone down to Lucea. Her arrival with so little damage affords yet a favourable prospect of the safety of the ship *Ladies Adventure*.

A letter from St. Elizabeth's informs us, that on Saturday last appeared off White-House, in that parish, the hull of a large vessel, but being a rainy and foggy day, the wreck was not distinctly seen till the next morning, when several of the inhabitants attempted getting on board in a canoe, but an easterly wind setting in very smart, they were obliged to return to the shore. The wreck made a signal by hoisting up a white cloth. We are at a loss to conjecture what this may be.

We must add to our last account of the misfortunes in Hanover, the loss of Mr. John Briffet's eldest son, Dr. Hall's ditto, and Mrs. Charles Samuel's son and three daughters, and a fourth daughter's thigh dislocated.

The overseer of Mexico's estate in Nassau was drowned in the late storm.

*St. Jago de la Vega, Oct. 19.* The honourable the assembly met here on Tuesday last, but there not being a sufficient number of Members present to proceed to business, and the honourable the speaker being necessarily detained in Westmoreland, in providing for the accommodation of his family, which has suffered greatly in the late hurricane, his excellency the governor was pleased to prorogue the House to Tuesday the 7th of November next, then to meet and proceed to business.

At a general meeting of the inhabitants of Kingston on Saturday last, to take into consideration the most speedy and effectual means of relieving the distresses in which the late dreadful storm has involved the leeward part of this island, we are informed a very capital sum was subscribed by way of loan, and every measure adopted which could add efficacy to their benevolence.

A subscription for the same humane and benevolent purpose is likewise begun in this town, at the head of which, we hear, stands the name of his excellency General Dalling, who has subscribed the sum of 2000l.

## WESTMORELAND.

At a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of the parish of Westmoreland, at Mr. David Finlayson's house, in Savanna la Mar, on Wednesday the 18th of October 1780, to consult on the most eligible means for alleviating the distresses of the unhappy sufferers by the storm of the 3d inst. to rebuild a court-house, to hold the courts for the  
Cornwall

Cornwall assize, and to erect a county town for the accommodation of trade, and the inhabitants, &c.

The custos and many of the magistrates being present, letters from his excellency the governor, the honourable the custos rotulorum of St. James's, and from the chamber of commerce, were read at the meeting, and after George Murray, Esq. and some other gentlemen of the parish, communicated the steps they had taken previous to this meeting, and before it was possible to summons the justices and vestry, the gentlemen present came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the letter wrote by the gentlemen of the parish to his excellency the governor, to the admiral, and to the chamber of commerce, representing the situation of this parish by the violence of the storm, and requesting assistance, be unanimously approved of.

Resolved, That the honourable John Cope, William Blake, George Murray, Jeremiah Meyer, and William Hylton, Esqrs. or any three of them, be a committee to answer the letters from his excellency the governor, and chamber of commerce, to return the most grateful thanks of this parish, for the very polite and humane tender of services to the sufferers thereof, as well as for the sending vessels with provisions for their relief, and for the ready grant of a convoy for their protection by the admiral.

Resolved, That the above committee be appointed to correspond with the representatives of this parish during the present session of the assembly, as well as with the gentlemen of the other parishes.

Resolved,

Resolved, That John Lewis, Robert Dunston Woollery, James Williams, William Bosley, and James Robert Tomlinson, Esqrs. or any three of them, be delegates to meet the justices and vestry men, and others the inhabitants of St. James's, in conformity to the second, third, and fourth resolutions of their meeting of the twelfth of October instant; and that the clerk of the vestry do write to the honourable the custos rotulorum of said parish, to return thanks for the polite attention of the inhabitants to this parish in this season of distress, and inclose a copy of these resolves.

Resolved, That the inhabitants of this parish, whether proprietors, attornies, merchants, or others, that have become sufferers by the late storm, be requested to give in an estimate of their losses sustained, to the clerk of the vestry by or before the 30th day of October instant.

Resolved, That the thanks of the parish, in the name of this meeting, be given, in a public manner, to Mr. David Finlayson, for his very humane reception of a number of the distressed, on the night of the storm, and for the hospitality and protection he still continues to practise to the sufferers, as well as for the use of the remains of his house, which he civilly makes an offer of for all public meetings, until the parish can be better accommodated.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all planters, pen-keepers, and others, that may be in circumstances to relieve the distressed, to contribute thereunto, by sending cattle and other provisions, to be killed at Mr. Finlayson's, for the use of the inhabitants of Savanna la Mar; and that all persons

sons so humanely disposed do subscribe their names, that application may be made to them for the regulation of the killing days.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to treat with Mr. George Lesalie for the purchase of his land on Savanna la Mar Bay, for the purpose of erecting a court-house: and when bought to make out a plan, and advertise for tradesmen to build the same in the most effectual and expeditious manner, and to endeavour to have the same completed in six months.

Resolved, That William Beckford, George Murray, Jeremiah Meyler, William Bosley, John Lewis, and Robert Pinkney, Esqrs. be a committee to carry the above resolve into execution.

Resolved, That application be made to the honourable the assembly to have a bill passed for vesting all the lands of the town of Savanna la Mar, by purchase at a valuation in trustees, to lay the town out anew in a more regular manner, according to such a plan as they may approve of, and to sell the same out in lots, subject to such condition of building houses, as they may think right to limit; and to authorize them to have beadles and watch, &c.

Resolved, That application be made to the assembly to borrow the sum of 1000l. granted by a former session, for the purpose of building a gaol, and not taken up from the receiver-general, to be applied to the building of the court-house, the parish to pay interest for the same, and refund the principal in four years.

Resolved, That until such time as the town of Savanna la Mar can have the assize-court, the honourable



honourable the assembly be applied to, to pass a short bill to make all such as have causes to try, in the county of Cornwall, to change the venue to the supreme court.

Resolved, That the above resolutions be published for one month in the Cornwall Chronicle. By order of the above meeting,

THOMAS BARKER, Clk Vestry.

# FROM THE JAMAICA ROYAL GAZETTE.

*St. Jago de la Vega, Oct. 12.*

At Savanna la Mar, on the afternoon of Tuesday the 3d instant, about three o'clock, the wind began to blow very hard from the south-east, accompanied with heavy rains; and by four had acquired such strength as to tear the trees up by the roots and strip the houses of their shingles. Between five and six the sea began to rise, and continued for near an hour to swell to a most amazing height, overflowing the ill-fated town of Savanna la Mar and the low lands adjacent. From this time until eight o'clock the force of the winds and the impetuosity of the waves overthrew and demolished every house in that unfortunate place, and buried most of the inhabitants in the ruins. A little after eight it began to abate, but nevertheless continued to blow very hard until midnight, when the wind veered round to the westward. No pen can describe the horrors of the scene which the morning presented to the sight of the few who survived to lament the fate of their wretched neighbours.

Neighbours; the earth strewed with the mangled bodies of the dead and dying, some with broken limbs, who, in that situation, had been tossed about during the storm, and afterwards left on the wet naked earth to languish out the night in agonies, with no hand to help, or eye to pity them. Humanity recoils at the contemplation of such unheard-of calamities; and every feeling heart must melt at the bare recital.

The names of the unhappy sufferers which we have yet been able to learn are: The comptroller of that port Mr. M'Dowall, Dr. King, his wife, and two assistants; Messrs. Forbes and Dallas, and four children; Mr. Nesbit, a carpenter; Mrs. Allwood and three children; Mrs. Gibson and two children; Mr. John Fitzgerald; Dr. Lightfoot; Mr. William Antrobus jun. Messrs. Aaron Touro and Moses Nunes, and the nephew of the latter; Miss Pefoa; a child of Mr. Payne; Mr. M'Lean, his wife and children; Mrs. Slap; Mrs. Little, three Quadroon children, and a great number of negroes. We are informed by gentlemen who are just arrived from that quarter, that the bodies of eighty white persons have already been found, and many more are expected to be dug out of the ruins, and that it is thought not less than 400 white and negroes must have perished in and about Savanna la Mar.

The ships Henry, Princess Royal, and Austin Hall, then at anchor in the harbour, with two or three doggers, were driven from their moorings, and carried a considerable way up into the morass; from whence it will be impossible to get them off. The Princess Royal had four anchors out, and the

D

crew

crew were attempting to get out the fifth, when the wind carried it fairly off the deck some distance into the sea. One of the ships went over the fort, the parapet of which, at other times, is about fifteen feet above the level of the water. The Trimmer, a packet from Rattan, which lay at Bluefields, was likewise sent ashore, but all the hands were saved, though some belonging to the other vessels were lost.

Throughout the whole parish of Westmoreland, from the best information we can obtain, there is not a dwelling-house, out-house, or a set of works on any of the estates left standing; the canes, corn, plaintain-trees, and every production of the earth destroyed. At one estate, Blue Castle, report says, that 200 negroes were killed in a boiling-house, whither they had fled for shelter: along the sea-coast many dead bodies scattered about, probably driven ashore from some wreck, meet the eye of the passenger, and one uniform scene of desolation and devastation overspreads the face of that part of the country.

From St. Elizabeth our accounts are much more favourable: some estates there have suffered, but in a far less degree than those in Westmoreland, Hanover, and St. James's, over which the greatest force of the hurricane seems to have passed. At Black-River a few houses are overthrown, but none of any consequence. Some plantain walks, cane and corn pieces, are likewise destroyed.

A letter from Lucea says, that upwards of 400 persons, white and black, perished in that town and neighbourhood.

A gentleman from Savanna la Mar gives the follow-

following relation of the fatal catastrophe of that devoted town :

On Tuesday the 3d instant, about one o'clock in the afternoon, the gale began from the S. E. and continued increasing with accumulated violence until four, when it veered to the South, and became a perfect tempest, which lasted in full force till near eight ; it then abated. The sea, during the last period, exhibited a most awful scene ; the waves swelled to an unusual height, rushed with an impetuosity, not to be described, on the land, and in a few minutes determined the fate of all the houses on the Bay. Those whose strength or presence of mind enabled them to seek their safety in the Savannah, took refuge in the miserable remains of the habitations there, most of which were blown down, or so much damaged by the storm, as to be hardly capable of affording a comfortable shelter to the wretched sufferers. In the Court-House, 40 persons, whites and of colour, sought an asylum, but miserably perished by the pressure of the roof and sides which fell upon them. Numbers were saved in that part of the house of Mr. Finlayson, that luckily withstood the violence of the tempest. Himself and another gentleman had left it, when the wind had forced open the door, and carried away the whole lee-side of it, and sought their safety under the wall of an old kitchen ; but finding they must inevitably perish in that situation, they returned to the house determined to submit to their fate. About ten the waters began to abate, and at that time a smart shock of an earthquake was felt—all the small vessels in the Bay were droye ashore, and

ashed to pieces. The ships, *Princess Royal*, *Capt. Ruthwies*; *Henry, Richardson*; and *Austin Hall, Austin*, were forced from their anchors, and carried so far into the morass, that they will never be got off. The earthquake lifted the *Princess Royal* from her beam ends, righted her, and fixed her in a firm bed; this circumstance has been of great use to the surviving inhabitants, for whose accommodation she now serves as a house.

The morning ushered in a scene too shocking for description—Bodies of the dead and dying scattered about the watery plains, where the town stood, presented themselves to the agonizing view of the son of humanity, whose charity led him in quest of the remains of his unhappy fellow-creatures! The number who have perished, is not yet precisely ascertained, but it is imagined 50 whites, and 150 persons of colour are lost.—Amongst them are numbered *Dr. King*, his wife and four children, his partner, an assistant, *Mr. Nesbit*, a carpenter, and 24 negroes, all in one house. *Dr. Lightfoot* and *Mr. Antrobus* were found dead in the streets. In the whole parish, it is said, there are not five dwelling-houses, and not one set of works remaining; the plantain walks all destroyed; every cane-piece levelled; several white people and some hundreds of negroes killed.

In the adjoining parish of *St. Elizabeth*, although the face of the country wore a less horrible aspect than at *Westmoreland*, much damage was done, and several lives lost.

Our accounts from *Lucea*, though not particular, are terrible indeed.—The town, except two  
houses,

houses, those of Messrs A. and D. Campbell, and the adjoining tenement of Mr. Lyons, levelled to the ground; many lives lost;—and in the whole parish of Hanover, but three houses standing;—not a tree, bush, or cane to be seen—universal desolation prevails! Of the wretched victims to this violation of the course of nature, we can only as yet name Messrs. Aaron and Solomon Dian Fernandes, two ancient gentlemen of the Jewish nation, one aged 81, and the other 80, of respectable and venerable characters.—Three young ladies, Misses Samuels, at Green Island.—The elegant house of John Campbell, Esq. at Salt Spring; Kendall, and Campbell town; and that of Mr. Chambers, at Batchelor's Hall, no longer adorn that rich and fertile parish.—Capt. Darling, Mrs. Darling, and Mr. Moxham, were dragged out, barely alive; from the ruins of an arch that supported a flight of steps, under which they had sheltered themselves—fourteen or fifteen people of colour were buried in a store that fell in upon them.

## SECTION

## SECTION II.

## ACCOUNTS FROM BARBADOS.

*Copy of a letter from Major-General Vaughan, Commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in the Leeward Islands, to Lord George Germain, dated Barbados, Oct. 30, 1780.*

MY LORD,

I AM much concerned to inform your lordship, that this island was almost entirely destroyed by a most violent hurricane, which began on Tuesday the 10th instant, and continued almost without intermission for near forty-eight hours : it is impossible for me to attempt a description of the storm ; suffice it to say, that few families have escaped the general ruin, and I do not believe that ten houses are saved in the whole island ; scarce a house is standing in Bridgetown ; whole families were buried in the ruins of their habitations, and many, in attempting to escape, were maimed and disabled : a general convulsion of nature seemed to take place, and an universal destruction ensued.

The strongest colours could not paint to your lordship the miseries of the inhabitants on the one hand, the ground covered with the mangled bodies of their friends and relations ; and, on the other, reputable

reputable families wandering through the ruins, seeking for food and shelter; in short, imagination can form but a faint idea of the horrors of this dreadful scene.

Every plantation and building, great and small, are thrown to the ground; the cattle and stock belonging to them are almost all destroyed; the produce of the earth torn up by the roots, and not a trace left behind; so that there is too much reason to fear, that a famine must inevitably ensue, unless some effectual means are used to prevent it.

Fortunately the stores and provisions belonging to the army and navy (the latter of which are very considerable) have been with great difficulty nearly all saved, although the whole was a continued scene of rapine and confusion; and the negroes, who are exceedingly numerous in this island, instead of attempting to save the effects of the unhappy sufferers, were plundering in every part of the town.

Every ship which was in Carlisle Bay, amongst which were one army and two navy victuallers, and one ordnance ship, were driven to sea; and I much fear that most of them have perished, or are carried so far to leeward, as to render it impossible for them to regain this port.

I must beg leave to refer your lordship to his excellency the governor's letter for a more minute description of this destructive tempest; and I am confident your lordship must sensibly feel for the miserable calamities that have befallen the inhabitants of this ruined country.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. VAUGHAN.

*Extract*



*Extract of a letter from Major-General Cunningham, Governor of the Island of Barbados, to Lord George Germain, dated Barbados, Oct. 20, 1780.*

THE inclosed journal, which I have the honour to send your lordship, will, in feeble colours, present to your view, the almost total destruction of this once beautiful island, which many years cannot repair; and I much fear that the present proprietors of the soil will be unable to erect buildings, so deeply are they indebted to the English merchants, unless from great indulgence.

The chief employment now going on is to secure covering for their negroes and inhabitants, and planting provisions; and here I must recal your lordship's particular attention to the speedy supplying this island with provisions from England and Ireland, which they have no doubt but that the bounty and generosity of the best of kings will amply provide, otherwise they will run a risk of starving.

The first object of my attention was to send a speedy notice to Commodore Hotham of our disaster, that he might furnish a frigate to go to England; and I have also written circular letters to the governors in North America, to encourage lumber and provisions to be sent out to us.

Your lordship will receive the inclosed address of the council of this island to the throne; and I must do them the justice to say, that I have found them ready to co-operate in every measure proposed for the good of the island and his majesty's service.

It



tempest increasing every minute, the family took to the centre of the building, imagining from the prodigious strength of the walls, they being three feet thick, and from its circular form, it would have withstood the wind's utmost rage: however, by half after eleven o'clock, they were obliged to retreat to the cellar, the wind having forced its way into every part, and torn off most of the roof. From this asylum they were soon driven out; the water being stopped in its passage, having found itself a course into the cellar, they knew not where to go: the water had rose four feet, and the ruins were falling from all quarters. To continue in the cellar was impossible, to return to the house was equally so; the only chance left was making for the fields, which at that time appeared equally dangerous: it was however attempted, and the family were so fortunate as to get to the ruins of the foundation of the Flag Staff, which soon after giving way, every one endeavoured to find a retreat for himself; the governor, and the few that remained, were thrown down, and it was with great difficulty they gained the cannon, under the carriage of which they took shelter: their situation here was highly deplorable; many of the cannon were moved, and they had reason to fear, that under which they sat might be dismounted, and crush them by its fall, or that some of the ruins that were flying about would put an end to their existence: and to render the scene still more dreadful, they had much to fear from the powder magazine, near which they were; the armoury was level with the ground, and the arms, &c. scattered about. Anxiously did they wait the break of day,

day, flattering themselves, that with the light they would see a cessation of the storm; yet when it appeared, little was the tempest abated, and the day served but to exhibit the most melancholy prospect imaginable; nothing can compare with the terrible devastation that presented itself on all sides; not a building standing; the trees, if not torn up by their roots, deprived of their leaves and branches; and the most luxuriant spring changed in this one night to the dreariest winter. In vain it was to look round for shelter; houses, that from their situation it was to have been imagined would have been in a degree protected, were all flat with the earth, and the miserable owners, if they were so fortunate as to escape with their lives, were left without a covering for themselves and family.

General Vaughan was early obliged to evacuate his house; in escaping he was very much bruised; his secretary was so unfortunate as to break his thigh. Nothing has ever happened that has caused such universal desolation. No one house in the island is exempt from damage. Very few buildings are left standing on the estates. The depopulation of the negroes and cattle, particularly of the horned kind, is very great, which must, more especially in these times, be a cause of great distress to the planters. It is as yet impossible to make any accurate calculation of the number of souls that have perished in this dreadful calamity; whites and blacks together, it is imagined to exceed some thousands, but fortunately few people of consequence are among the number. Many were buried in the ruins of the houses and buildings.

ings. Many fell victims to the violence of the storm and inclemency of the weather, and great numbers were driven into the sea and there perished. The troops have suffered inconsiderably, though both the barracks and hospital were early blown down. Alarming consequences were dreaded from the number of dead bodies that lay uninterred, and from the quantity the sea threw up, which however are happily subsided. What few public buildings there were are fallen in the general wreck. The fortifications have suffered very considerably. The buildings were all demolished; for so violent was the storm here, when assisted by the sea, that a twelve pound gun was carried from the south to the north battery, a distance of one hundred and forty yards. The loss to this country is immense; many years will be required to retrieve it.

General Vaughan's attention to the inhabitants of Bridgetown has been very great. On the 12th of October such orders were issued to the troops, and obeyed with such alacrity, that every thing was kept quiet in the town, which would otherwise have been in great danger of being plundered by the prisoners of war, &c. who were liberated by the demolition of the prisons, and are now, to the number of above 800, dispersed over the town and country; they, however, under this controul, behaved tolerably well, and have been of much service to the inhabitants who have given them employment.

On the 13th of October the governor went to Bridgetown, issued a proclamation, and took such steps as appeared of utility to the inhabitants.

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The merchants, &c. formed an association, and appointed committees for the interment of the dead, the care and distribution of the provisions, &c. They voted their thanks to general Vaughan and the troops; to whom they proposed, as a reward for the service they had been of in protecting their property, to give them a sixpence per diem; to which Mr. Shirley, purveyor to the navy, promised another sixpence. A sloop was on the 16th dispatched to St. Lucia to commodore Hotham, with the melancholy tidings of the dreadful calamity that has befallen the island, requesting of him to send a frigate to England with the news.

To his most Excellent Majesty,  
The humble address of the council of your Majesty's island of Barbados.

*May it please your Majesty,*

WE the inhabitants of your Majesty's council of Barbados, resident in the island, beg leave to approach your Majesty at this interesting period, with the strongest assurance of that inviolable attachment and unshaken loyalty to your royal person and government, which this ancient colony has always preserved undiminished, and which neither time or situation can ever efface. Allow us, Sire, at this time to hope that we shall be indulged with your Majesty's gracious attention to our present distressed situation.

It is natural for us, and indeed our duty, to apply to your Majesty in the hour of our distress; for to whom else can we fly for succour and protection but to our gracious sovereign, who has always been most ready to hear, and ever willing to redress, his subjects grievances.

Emboldened then by the experience of your Majesty's gracious condescension on former occasions,

we

we humbly presume to lay before your Majesty a faint representation of the devastation and ruin in which a violent hurricane, on the 10th of this month, has involved all the inhabitants of Barbados: and here may it please your Majesty, words are inadequate to represent in its true circumstances the present horrid scene.

After a series of accumulated misfortunes had reduced this once flourishing island to the lowest degree of poverty, a devouring irresistible hurricane, in point of violence, unprecedented in the memory of man, has, we fear, completed the destructive work of ruin. Estates which appeared to possess the best constructed buildings, have had those valuable buildings levelled with the earth: nor has there been any one possession in the island, but what has received very considerable, nay irreparable damage. To hear the dying groans of a very considerable number of the inhabitants, who lay expiring in the streets of the towns, as well as of others killed about the country, is a circumstance too shocking even to mention. Thus have your Majesty's faithful subjects been reduced, and the survivors left without habitations, the fatal consequences of one dreadful calamity.

Without resources of timber, without any resource of wealth to purchase such timber, was it to be procured, or those other necessities essential for reaping our little crops; we are now left without any prospect of alleviating our unfortunate condition.

Hapless, however, as our situation may be, we have every advantage to hope, every good to expect, from the benignity of your Majesty's compassionate disposition, and from those endearing feelings

ings which have taught the world, that in the same person may be united the great and powerful monarch with the amiable good man. In behalf, then, of this ruined island we humbly request such assistance as may be judged by your Majesty's wisdom most proper for us to receive.

But, while we ask for present relief, we are not unmindful of former benefits ; and permit us, Sire, with hearts full of gratitude, to return your Majesty the poor tribute of our thanks, the only tribute we have to offer for all the benefits we have enjoyed under your Majesty's reign, a reign we sincerely hope may be as long and happy as you yourself, Sire, can wish it to be.

It would be injustice in us to conclude without embracing this opportunity of bearing our testimony to the worthy conduct of our present governor, who at all times, but more especially on the last dreadful occasion, in the midst of our misfortunes, has exerted himself with so active a zeal for the public service, as reflects back the honour he derives from the royal appointment.

We are,  
Most gracious Sovereign,  
Your most dutiful and  
faithful subjects,

John Dotin  
A. Cumberbatch  
Henry Frere  
Irenæus Moe  
Robert Brathwait  
Oct. 20, 1780.

Wm. Senhouse  
John Best  
Joseph Keeling  
John Ince,

*Tbe*



*The following address of the House of Assembly in Barbados, was delivered by Samuel Estwick, Esq. the agent of that island, to Lord George Germain.*

(BARBADOS.)

To the King's most excellent Majesty.

*Most gracious Sovereign,*

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the representatives of the people of this island, beg leave to implore your Majesty's favour under the greatest of all calamities which we have yet endured, a dreadful tempest, which, arising on the tenth of this month, and continuing for the space of near thirty hours, has thrown down or otherwise destroyed almost all the dwelling-houses both of our towns and country, most of the churches in each, as well as public edifices, along with the buildings of our sugar-works, both large and small; and by rooting up the trees and leveling the plants also of the earth to the ground, has spread the scene of ruin and desolation over the whole island; great numbers of persons, both white and black, have been killed, and a still greater number of cattle, so necessary to the manure of our lands, as well as for labour and for food, have perished; and this dreadful event, following all our former disappointments and distresses, renders many of our planters and other inhabitants utterly unable to rebuild their works, or even to provide a comfortable shelter for themselves and families; and all others, though in  
better

better circumstances, find themselves, from the want of lumber and other materials, at this unhappy period, under difficulties, discouraging and almost insuperable. Would to God, however, that we had now recounted to your Majesty the utmost of our distress and apprehensions; but one circumstance, Sir, of still greater terror to us remains to be unfolded; for by the destruction of great quantities of the Indian corn, lately gathered in and stored for the subsistence of our negroes, and from the length of time that must naturally pass before a new crop can be reaped, we dread a scarcity of our grain, and that a famine will complete that misery which the tempest may then seem only to have begun. Yet, trusting in the mercies of an Almighty and good Being for saving us, by a blessing on our industry and care from that most fatal consequence of his late awful judgment, we now throw ourselves at your Majesty's feet to implore your royal favour, and the nation's bounty, under your Majesty's most gracious countenance, to enable us to bear up under this dreadful shock of our finances, and assist us to repair the uncommon damage we have sustained; or we have but too just cause to fear that your Majesty's most ancient and ever loyal colony of Barbados may be lost in every point of valuable consideration to the crown and parent state, and sink themselves into an abyss of indigence and despair.

By order of the House,  
JOHN GAY ALLEYNE, Speaker.

House of Assembly,

Oct. 31, 1780.

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*Copy*

*Copy of a Letter from a Planter at Barbados, dated in  
Carlisle Bay, Nov. 4th.*

THE distress of the inhabitants of this island is so impracticable to describe, that I will not attempt it: I write this on ship-board, where some of the most wealthy are happy to have obtained a shelter, in the extreme want of dwellings. St. Anne's Fort, which you know is our citadel, has suffered considerably; the repairs will at least cost 10,000l. most of our wharfs destroyed; in short, such a general wreck as will take ten or a dozen of years to reinstate; yet in the midst of our desolations we have some comfort: the sugar grounds, it is hoped, are in better condition than were expected; for though every thing above ground gave way, yet we hope that the roots of the canes are not removed, in which case they will grow again in six or eight months: vessels are dispatched to different parts of North America for provisions, without a supply of which numbers must die of famine: 1000 negroes have perished in that way since the hurricane for want; our chief resource, however, and expectations, are from government, to whom the most dutiful petitions are preparing. We have strange accounts from Eustatia and Martinico, which aggravate their distresses, even if possible, beyond our own.

SECTION

## SECTION III.

## ACCOUNTS FROM ST. LUCIA.

*(This Island was gained from the French in 1778.)*

## FROM THE ST. LUCIA GAZETTE.

*Carenage, Oct. 21, 1780.*

**W**E shall endeavour to relate the circumstances that attended the gale of wind on the 11th instant, with as much exactness as possible.

On the 10th there was a heavy sea at the entrance of the harbour and along the coast, attended with heavy rains, and at times severe gusts of wind, insomuch that his majesty's ships, which lay far out, were in danger of parting from their anchors.

In the evening the wind was felt much severer in the harbour; but on shore nothing was particularly observed that seemed to indicate so severe a change of weather. The gale cannot be said to have fairly commenced till about one o'clock the next morning, when it began to blow from about the N. E. in the most sudden and severe gusts.

At day-light there was scarce a vessel left in the road but what had drifted, and many, though so early, were on shore. In short, the whole were driven in a cluster, on the Morne Fortune side.

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His

His majesty's ships Ajax, Egmont, and Montague all put to sea in the night, the first about nine o'clock, the second near midnight, and the Montague not till near day-light. The Amazon frigate rode it out till near noon, when she was obliged to cut. The only vessel of war that now remained was the Vengeance, commodore Hotham, and she at noon was obliged to cut all her masts away to save her from going ashore, where every soul must have perished.

The small craft which lay at the head of the harbour, were mostly driven ashore very early; the sloop Nelly, prize to the Amazon, was overset; a schooner belonging to Mr. Miller sunk at anchor, as did a tender belonging to one of his majesty's ships, and the sloop Two Friends, belonging to Antigua, was likewise lost; others were dismasted and much damaged.

It would seem as if the former part of the gale was intended to prepare the mind for the redoubled violence with which, in the afternoon, it increased. From three to five, which was esteemed the height of it, those vessels which had rode it out were torn from their anchors, and carried with astonishing force against the other shipping. His majesty's armed frigate, the St. Vincent, was one of those; she lay across the gut where the Cornwall is sunk; and notwithstanding the advantage she had over others, of making fast to that vessel, she was driven on the opposite side with the greatest rapidity, and entirely dismasted.

To a person acquainted with the excellent qualities of this harbour, it would be sufficient to give him a proper idea of the force of the wind, to learn that

that not a vessel can be saved that rode it out. But ashore, even in the most interior parts of the island, the havoc and destruction is inexpressible! houses levelled with the ground, the woods almost entirely cleared of their lofty inhabitants, and scarce a branch or leaf to be seen on those remaining; in fine, the whole country wears the face of winter. On Morne Fortune not a hut was left standing, or a house but what was unroofed, and a sailor and a soldier were killed. At the Grand Cul de Sac not a house was left, and they had the misfortune, out of so small a number of men at that part, to lose ten, together with a woman and a child. In the town of the Carenage not a house escaped without some damage; numbers were entirely destroyed, and others rendered useless. It was almost as dangerous to be within as to be without doors, as scarce a house among the whole could be depended on; tiles, slates, and shingles flew about with great force in all parts; even pieces of joists, boards, &c. were carried at a great distance, and the wind came with such violence at the corners of the streets, as to render them impassable.

The gale continued till one in the morning of the 12th (twenty-four hours) during which time the wind came very little, if any to the southward of E. or farther to the northward than N. N. E. At the end of the gale the wind went to the southward, and great quantities of rain fell. It is unknown the mischief that would have been done, had the wind during the gale come to the westward or southward. It is at present, upon the whole, much less than could be reasonably expected. Only two square-rigged vessels will be totally lost, viz. the ship

ship *Champion*, Capt. Hall, from New-York, and the brig *Dolphin*, Capt. Morrison, laden with salt fish, last from St. Kitt's; of the others, some are totally dismasted, many much damaged, and some lives are lost; the *Ætna* bomb also lost her mizen-mast.

At Gros-Islet his majesty's ships the *Deal-Castle* and *Cameleon* lay; these vessels rode out the gale till the afternoon of the 11th, when they were obliged to put to sea. The town also suffered much, as did also *P'Ance la Raye*.

*Souffrier* seems to be the place that has suffered the most; indeed the accounts from thence are shocking, the sea demolished the major part of the town; it rose so high as the church: upwards of fifty lives are said to be lost on shore. The ship *Barbary*, Capt. Wiseman, and the brig *Martha*, Capt. Oats, both from Liverpool, were driven to sea, as was a schooner belonging to Mr. Balton, whose store in that place was entirely destroyed.

At *P'Ance Choiseul* the sea broke through the houses, but we have not been able to learn the particular damage done there, *Islet à Carret* likewise suffered much.

A small schooner which sailed from hence for Barbados, on the 10th, was driven back by the gale, and got into Gros-Islet, where, the following afternoon, she sunk at an anchor, and every soul on board perished.

The most melancholy piece of intelligence we have yet to relate, is of his majesty's ship the *Beaver's* prize, which sailed from hence the 8th for Barbados, on board of which was lieutenant-colonel

colonel Mitchel, of the 27th regiment, Dr. Knowles, surgeon of the General Hospital here, Dr. Ore, of the 35th regiment, and a lady; she was driven ashore at Savannah; of the whole, only forty got on shore, among which was a lady, who, with about half the men, died soon after they landed.

The Mary and Isabella, belonging to Messrs. Scott and Wilson of Barbados, was driven out of Carlisle Bay, in that island, by the same gale, and wrecked at a place called Petit Trou, to windward of this island; the crew all got ashore except three, but were very much hurt. It is something surprising, that the gale began in that island fifteen hours before it did here: the most of the shipping, among which was his majesty's ship Albemarle, were driven out about eleven o'clock of the forenoon of the 13th. There having been no arrival from that island since the gale, it is not in our power to give any account of the damages done there, which we fear must have been very considerable.

His majesty's ship the Montague returned here early in the morning of the 13th totally dismasted, together with the loss of her bowsprit and head; she was driven with the wind under the lee of St. Vincent, and had, at one time, upwards of nine feet water in her hold.

*Admiralty Office, Dec. 26, 1780.*

*Captain Hartwell of his majesty's ship Brune, who left Antigua the 12th of last month, and landed in Baltimore in Ireland the 18th instant, arrived this morn-*



*morning with letters from commodore Holbarn and commissioner Laforey to Mr. Stephens, of which the following are extracts.*

*Vengeance, Carenage, St. Lucia, Oct. 23, 1780.*

ON the 10th in the morning the *Blanche*, which was charged with my letter to you of that date, sailed with the *Alcmene* for Antigua; a short time made a great change in our situation; for on the night following (viz. the 10th) there arose a hurricane at N. E. which increased by the morning to a degree of violence that is not to be described. The *Ajax*, *Montague*, and *Egmont*, which had been anchored before the entrance of the harbour, were, before day-light, all forced to sea, as was the *Amazon* soon after; and the *Deal Castle* and *Cameleon*, which had been stationed in Gros-Islet Bay for the protection of the hospitals, shared the same fate. The *Vengeance*, with the *Ætna* and *Vesuvius* bombs, and the *San Vincente* snow, were moored within the Carenage, and prepared with every caution that could be taken to withstand the tempest, which had already put several of the transports on shore, and by this time blew with an irresistible fury, attended with an incessant flood of rain. A little after twelve o'clock the *Vengeance* parted her cable, and tailed upon the rocks. It now became absolutely requisite to cut away her masts, the loss of which, with the help of a number of guns that were got forward, eased considerably the force with which she struck; and by the wind fortunately shifting two or three points farther to the eastward, her stern swung off the rocks, and

and she was, beyond every expectation, saved; for it now blew, if possible, with redoubled violence, and nothing was to be seen or expected but ruin, desolation, and destruction in every part. The San Vincente snow, with many of the transports, victuallers, and traders, were dismasted, and mostly all on shore; in short, no representation can equal the scene of distress that appeared before us.

The storm continued with incredible vehemence during the whole day; but the weather about midnight became more moderate, and by the next morning the wind was totally abated. The direction of it was from N. N. E. to E. S. E. of twenty-nine hours duration.

On the 13th the Montague anchored before the harbour, without a mast or bowsprit standing, eight feet water in her hold, and all her powder damaged: every assistance was given to get her into the Carenage, where she is now secured in safety. The Ajax returned to this anchorage on the 21st, with the loss of her main-yard, main-top-mast, and mizen-mast. The Beaver's prize, being on her passage to Barbados, was unfortunately wrecked on the back of this island near Vieux Fort; and it gives me pain to add, that all her officers and crew, except 17 men, perished.

The preservation of the Amazon is so singular and extraordinary, that I herewith transmit a copy of the account given of it by captain Finch.

I am, &c.

W. HOTHAM,

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*Amazon*

*Amazon, English Harbour, Oct. 17, 1780.*

S I R,

I AM at a loss whether to express in the strongest terms my regret for the misfortunes that have happened to his majesty's ship under my command, or my satisfaction in having got her in safety to this port.

I flatter myself you saw the necessity we were under of putting to sea the morning after the commencement of the gale. We then stood under our storm stay-sails W. by N. from the Carenage; it was but for a short time the canvas held; after that the ship behaved perfectly well, and appeared to every person on board as capable of standing the gale that ensued, as was possible for any ship. About seven o'clock at night the gale increased to a degree that can better be conceived from the consequences, than any description I can give. There was an evident necessity of doing something to relieve the ship, but I was unwilling to cut away the lower masts till the last extremity, and accordingly ordered the people up to cut away the main-top-mast; my orders were attempted to be put in execution with the utmost alacrity, but before it could be accomplished, I found it necessary to call them down to cut away the main-mast. Whilst I was waiting for the men to come down, a sudden gust overset the ship; most of the officers, with myself and a number of the ship's company, got upon the side of the ship; the wheel on the quarter deck was then under water. In that situation I could perceive the ship settle bodily some feet, until the  
water

Water was up to the after part of the slides of the caronades on the weather side. Notwithstanding the ship was so far gone, upon the masts, bowsprit, &c. going away, she righted as far as to bring the gunwale even with the water's edge. By the exertions of all the officers and men we soon got the lee-quarter deck guns and caronades overboard, and soon after one of the forecastle guns, and sheet anchor cut away, which had so good an effect, that we were enabled to get to the pumps and lee-guns on the main-deck; the throwing them overboard was in our situation a work of great difficulty, and I could perceive the ship was going down by the stern: this arduous task was accomplished under the direction of lieutenant Pakenham, whose great experience and determined perseverance marked him out as perhaps the only individual to whom (amidst such great exertion) a pre-eminence could be given; and I do not think it possible for greater exertions to be made. The water was above the cables on the orlop-deck, with a vast quantity between decks; and the stump of the main-mast falling out of the step occasioned one of the chain-pumps to be rendered useless, as was the other soon after; by the great activity of the two carpenters mates, they were alternately cleared; upon my representing this to commissioner Laforey, he has appointed them both to act as carpenters (one in the Amazon, the other in the Antigua) till your pleasure is known. Besides the loss of our masts, &c. the ship has suffered considerable damages, the particulars of which I cannot send until a survey has been held upon the ship. The books and papers are totally destroyed, so

that it is not in my power particularly to ascertain the loss we have suffered in men ; I believe twenty drowned, beside a number wounded. For further particulars I refer you to the gentleman who will deliver this letter to you.

The carpenter was the only officer lost on this occasion.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

WM. CLEMENT FINCH.

*To Commodore Hotham.*

*Ajax, Carenage, St. Lucia, Nov. 5, 1780.*

S I R,

IT is with the deepest concern that, to my account of the 23d of October, I am now obliged to add a still more melancholy one, of the effects of the late dreadful hurricane, the force of which it appears was not to be withstood.

Upon the 25th the governor of Martinique sent me over, in a flag of truce, thirty-one men of the crews of the *Andromeda* and *Laurel*; the former overfet and foundered about six leagues to windward of that island ; and by the account which the pilot of her gives, who was one of the people saved, there is little expectation that the *Endymion* can have escaped, as he says, from her situation when they last saw her, and the direction of the wind at that time, it was impossible for her to have cleared the island upon either tack; the *Laurel* was driven on shore, and very soon went to pieces.

The Marquis de Bouille could not consider men who had only the force of the elements to cope with, in the light of enemies; but that having, in  
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common with themselves, partaken of the danger, were in like manner entitled to every comfort and relief that could be given in a time of such universal calamity and distress. He laments only that their number was so few, and that among them no officer was saved. In his way of acting he has shewn himself equally humane and generous; and I should be wanting in those sentiments myself, if I omitted to point out to their lordships his conduct upon this occasion.

A French convoy, of about sixty sail, under two frigates, intended for Martinique, have been totally dispersed, many of them lost, and some taken. One of the frigates, named the *Inconstant*, got into Fort Royal dismasted, but the other I have not heard of. The *Experiment* was driven on shore at Guadaloupe, the *Juno* was cast away at St. Vincent, and a brig, with 160 men on board, troops and others, foundered at the same place, and all perished. The hurricane, by every account, has been more fatal to the French islands than to ours: it was felt at Tobago, but not in such a degree as to do any mischief.

By the *Vigilant*, that anchored here to-day, I am informed by commissioner Laforey, that the *Venus* is arrived at English Harbour, with the loss of her foremast and bowsprit; and the trade at St. Kitt's put to sea on the approach of the gale, but the greatest part are since returned.

I am, &c.

W. HOTHAM.

*Caracas,*

*Caracas, at Antigua, Nov. 18, 1780.*

AS commodore Hotham's letters will contain every material communication to the time of their date, I have only left to add, that I am sorry to inform you none of the ships missing since the late hurricane have arrived, or been heard of here, to this time.

I am, &c.

JOHN LAFOREY.

*List of ships missing.*

Egmont, 74 guns, capt. Houlton.  
Endymion, 44 guns, capt. Carteret.  
Deal Castle, 24 guns, capt. Hawkins.  
Cameleon, 24 guns, capt. Johnstone.

The Egmont was seen on the 11th of October in the morning under her courses.

SECTION

## SECTION IV.

### ACCOUNTS FROM ANTIGUA.

#### OF THE

Fortunate Escape of that ISLAND and St. KITT'S.

*Extract of two letters from William Mathew Burt, Esquire, Governor of the Leeward Islands, to Lord George Germain, dated Antigua, Nov. 1st and 4th, 1780.*

**I**T is with infinite concern I acquaint your lordship, that since I closed my letter of the 25th of October, I have received the following account of the truly severe hurricane which happened in the middle of last month amongst the southern islands, and of which, thank God, except a violent surge, in this government, which at St. Christopher's threw many vessels on shore, we felt no bad effects.

At St. Lucia, all the barracks and huts for his majesty's troops, and other buildings in the island, were blown down; the ships drove to sea, his majesty's ship Amazon, captain Finch, most miraculously escaped foundering; she was on her beam ends for many hours; she lay down so far, that her windward guns were in the water; had many men washed over-board, others drowned on her decks;



decks ; was obliged to cut away all her masts and bowsprit, but under jury-masts, thank God, safely arrived at English Harbour. Captain Finch is perfectly well. The Albemarle blew out of Barbados, cut away her masts, also put into English Harbour. The Venus cut away her foremast, lost her bowsprit, and is arrived at English Harbour. The Blanche was seen by the Alcmené in great distress, and has never been since heard of ; we hope she is gone to Jamaica. The Ajax, Egmont, and Montague blew out of St. Lucia, and here we have not heard of them.

Every building in St. Vincent, we are told, was blown down, and the town destroyed. The Juno, a new French frigate of 40 guns, drove on shore, and dashed all to pieces.

At Grenada, great devastation on shore, 19 sail of loaded Dutch ships stranded and beat to pieces. Sixty-two sail of merchant ships with stores, and 2500 troops on board, was the re-inforcement expected under convoy of four frigates, arrived in the morning at Martinique ; they landed 100 of the troops, the remainder with the whole convoy were blown to sea ; we do not hear that any are again returned. Several wrecks have been seen and met with at sea. A ship blown out of St. Christopher's took two with troops on board, one she sent to Jamaica, the other to St. Christopher's. Report, but I have not yet any authentic account ; says, 1000 French troops are sent into St. Christopher's.

At Martinique the beautiful town of St. Pierre's, which is built on the shore, is said to be entirely washed away.

At

At Guadaloupe the town of Basseterre, also built on the lee shore, is said to be destroyed, and the Experiment French frigate blown on shore and lost. Two frigates are also said to be thrown on the Saints, and to have perished. We have yet not any accounts from Barbados, where, it is apprehended, the gale was very severe.

At Dominica they have suffered severely.—The Dutch, at St. Eustatia, have also greatly suffered; many houses on the Bay are washed into the sea. Their damage is computed at 150,000l. sterling. I have directed a general thanksgiving through this government on Sunday, to return God thanks for his protection and mercy extended to us during the late great and tremendous hurricane.

I have laid an embargo on lumber in this government, and intend sending what can be got as fast as possible to St. Lucia and Barbados. The houses and every thing in Grenada I hear are levelled with the ground. The same at St. Vincent's, where the town is washed away, besides the frigates which I mentioned, said to be thrown on shore on the Saints. His majesty's ship the Beaver's prize, captain Drummond, is also stranded, and the whole crew, except about thirty men, perished. Captain Drummond is greatly lamented.

Governor Cunningham and brigadier-general St. Leger write me, that they much apprehend a famine in Barbados and St. Lucia. There were undisposed of in this island near 1500 barrels of flour, which his majesty was graciously pleased to send for the relief of this island. I have already

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sent general St. Leger near 1000 barrels, and propose sending him 300 barrels, if not the whole remaining quantity.

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✎ Here it may be noted, that the islands of Tobago, Nevis, Montserrat, &c. have received no material damage.

SECTION

## SECTION V.

## ACCOUNTS FROM THE FRENCH ISLANDS.

EXTRACTS *from the* MARTINICO GAZETTE.*St. Peter's, October 19, 1780.*

**T**HERE is not a corner of this deplorable spot, which is not stamped with defolation; the sullen wave still murmurs on our shore, and we think we hear the cries of the wretches whom it has drowned. If egotism has begot amongst us monsters, who, instead of stretching to their indigent countrymen a beneficent hand, have conceived the inhuman project of raising their prosperity on the public ruin; if such there be, may this picture, twenty times watered with our tears, waken in them that first feeling of nature, which makes the most cruel savage fly to the succour of his fellow creature!

We must remember, that on the evening of the 10th, the fleet of 51 sail, which had left Corogna, safely cast anchor in our roads, excepting a few which had lost the opportunity of the tide. The atmosphere loaded with vapours, the moon all pale, and reflecting an ominous light, seemed to forebode some sinister event.

At midnight the winds veered to E. N. E. and began to blow high, and continuing equally violent, drove from our roads some vessels of the fleet

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on the morning of the 11th, and soon after almost all the rest had the same fate. About midnight we felt the first shock of an earthquake; the winds passed successively from E. S. E. to S. and W. and varied with such rapidity, that they seemed blowing from every point of the compass.

The wind blew with continual violence till half an hour after five in the morning when it abated, and we began to respire, and the first rays of the dawn shewed us our losses. We had now in our roads only one brigantine, one goelette, one boat, and three vessels of the fleet. The ship called the Young Dauphin was wrecked on the shore towards the middle of the night: she had lost only two men who had jumped overboard, intending to swim to the shore; all the rest were saved at break of day, after having been along time afloat on the different pieces of the wreck. A goelette, bound for France, struck on the shore, and dashed into a thousand pieces; out of twenty men, only nine were saved. At half an hour after six in the morning the three ships of the fleet, which were still at anchor, being at the point of driving by the prodigious swell, cut their cables, and gave themselves up, without fail, to the mercy of the winds and waves. Some who had firmness enough to stand on the beach, saw them at a great distance run foul of one another and sink.

The sea has thrown down sixty-three houses in the galley quarter, two houses in that of the fort, and the fort itself, the gunner's quarter, and a great part of the battery of St. Lewis; twenty-seven houses in the street of the Dauphine, &c. . Every building, or rather all the streets, from the shore

of St. Peter's down to Fort Royal, are entirely destroyed. Of the two prizes that our frigates, the *Ceres* and *Inconstante*, have taken from the English, that which carried 400 boucauds of cod has perished, men and merchandize, on the point Des Negres, and the other has not been since seen.

The news from the country served only to aggravate the former; suffice it to say, that crops of every kind and victuals are all swept away or destroyed.

We find wrecks all along our shore; and we hear that the inhabitants of Dominica are as wretched as we are.

The Experiment of 50 guns, commanded by M. de Martelli, has struck upon the Islets; it is to be hoped we shall be able to save her.

Monday last we heard the most afflicting news from St. Lucia; during 48 hours the wind blew there with such violence, that the island is a perfect desert.

We can never forget the affectionate care of our general, and the tender sollicitude of our first president Penier.

*Extract of a letter written by a Merchant at Martinico, to Mynbeer Van Roosberg, at the Hague, dated Oct. 17, 1780.*

THIS afternoon sails the Elmsdorf, — Key-linge, for Amsterdam, by which I take the opportunity of transmitting to you the most melancholy account ever received from this quarter.

From the 11th to the 13th instant we were visited with the most terrible hurricane that ever blew

blew in the memory of man. We had a sample of it on the 9th and 10th.

On the morning of the 11th it began to blow with uncommon fury, and the wind veered from the S. S. E. to the N. N. W. and continued to blow so all day : all the ships were blown off the island that were bringing troops and provisions, and we are in dread for the lives of more than 3000 soldiers and seamen they have on board.

On the 12th we saw four ships founder in Fort Royal Bay, and could not save a soul ; every other ship was blown out of the roads, and many must of course be lost.

In the noble town of St. Pierre every house is down, and, to my certain knowledge, more than 1000 persons perished. At Fort Royal town, the cathedral, the seven churches, and other noble and religious edifices, the governor's house, the record office, senate-house, prisons, hospitals, barracks, store-houses of government and merchants, and upwards of 1400 other houses, were blown down, and an incredible number of persons lost their lives. The new hospital de Notre Dame, the most convenient and elegant in the West Indies, in which were upwards of 1600 sick and wounded patients belonging to the fleet and army, was blown down, and the greatest part of them, with the matrons, nurses, attendants, &c. buried in the ruins.— Every store-office in the dock-yard is blown down and filled with ruins. The sick-house of the shipwrights, &c. belonging to the yard, shared the fate of that of Notre Dame, and about 100 perished.

By the report of the day, the number supposed to have perished upon the island, including negroes,  
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is computed at upwards of 9000, and the damage at upwards of 1,700,000 Louis-d'ors.

Among those who have perished, are *Monf. de Rabillame*, second secretary to the governor; *Monf. le Sabrille*, surgeon of the dock-yard; *Col. Estimeaux* of the engineers; and *Mess. Malone*, *le Bourdineaux*, *Grasse* (nephew to the commodore) *Poltain*, and *Merac*; these I knew well when living, and were capital merchants.

The island of *Guadaloupe* must have suffered as much as us; and we tremble even for those of our enemies.

*Extract of a letter from Martinico, by way of Amsterdam, dated Nov. 8, 1780.*

I SENT you by the last packet as good an account of the loss our island sustained by the late dreadful hurricane, as could then be obtained. In addition to that melancholy account, I am to inform you, that to windward, for near 12 miles in length, there is not a plantation standing; the sugar grounds are covered with sand of a yellow cast, intermixed with white broken shells, above two miles from the beach; in some places above a foot thick; the ground cannot be worked again for three years to come at least.

*Monf. le Caude's* plantation, on which he had 400 negroes, and many of them were good workmen and artists, as joiners, carpenters, millwrights, &c. exclusive of his domestics and family, we thought had been saved from the fury of the gale, by lying in a valley; but to our great surprize found the whole washed away, and fear every soul  
is



is lost. Madame le Caude was found dead between two rocks, quite naked, and is buried.

At the east end of the island was situated the convent of the St. Esprit, in which were boarded and educated, not only the daughters of the principal inhabitants of this island, but also of our other West India islands, and indeed several from Europe.

At the time of its being destroyed there were in it about 96 young ladies, some of whom were near twenty years of age; these also, with the whole of the convent, perished. Upwards of 80 of their bodies have been found and buried.

Church duties are performed twice every day in the fort for the souls of those killed by the tempest, &c.

The number of soldiers and officers, exclusive of those in the hospital, who are missing, and supposed to have perished, are—Regulars, 2 colonels, 1 major, 4 captains, 7 lieutenants, 3 ensigns, 2 staff, 16 serjeants, 9 drummers, 318 rank and file. Militia, 1 major, 2 captains, 3 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 4 serjeants, 2 drummers, 90 rank and file. Total, 2 colonels, 2 majors, 6 captains, 10 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 2 staff, 20 serjeants, 11 drummers, 408 rank and file.

*Extract of a letter from Guadaloupe, Oct. 19. by way of Amsterdam.*

I EMBRACE the opportunity of the sailing of the king's ship the Minerva to Old France, with dispatches from this island. But how to begin my letter am at a loss, the story is so melancholy, and yet not half known. The 11th, 12th, and 13th inst.

inst. the most dreadful hurricane that ever blew from the heavens, this island felt. This island! the boast and pride of France! the noblest built, and most fertile in the West-Indies, is now in a general state of desolation and destruction. On the 11th in the evening the sky was as red as fire, and seemed to burst with the loudest claps of thunder I ever heard; and by ten at night the wind blew very hard. On the 12th in the morning the gale increased, the sky darkened, and a most terrible shower of rain, with dismal thunder and lightning, continued till five in the afternoon; about which time the fishing town of St. Croix, and the village of All-doure, were washed away by a general sweep into the sea, and the inhabitants, whites and blacks, all perished. The surf was so high at St. Martin's, as to come close up to the bishop's house, which by the violence of the wind was blown down, who unfortunately, with his family, were washed into the sea, with the whole town of St. Martin's and its inhabitants. The principal town of Basse-terre, has not a church or house standing, which on the 11th in the morning consisted of more than 1100. The ecclesiastical houses are all down, and the number of whites perished at St. Croix, All-doure, St. Martin's, and Basse-terre, are near 2400, and about 4000 negroes and islanders. The damage done to the plantations is incredible, scarce a sugar-house escaped being blown down, or a negro saved. The governor's report mentions, that more than 8000 negroes are lost, which, at forty Louis-d'ors per man (the current value) amounts to 320,000 Louis-d'ors.

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I have also to add to this melancholy account, the loss of the king's ship *Penthièvre* of eighteen guns, and the *Conqueror* snow of 16 guns, and a frigate of 32 guns, and all hands perished. With every assistance in the power of Europe to grant us, it will take a time as long as the siege of Troy to put this island in as good a situation as it was on the 10th instant, although all the king's stores, by being built behind *St. Mary's Hill*, were saved.—Tents instead of houses are now our portion.

*The following are extracted from different letters, received by a principal Merchant in the City, dated St. Domingo, Nov. 4, 1780, via Amsterdam.*

## LETTER I.

THE dismal hurricane has laid waste this most populous and opulent island, the general source and pride of trade, the honour and glory of France.

The number of houses down are incredible, 900 capital buildings, occupied by the opulent and benevolent merchants, are now a pile of ruins: the noble street of *St. Lewis*, in which stood that venerable pile of building the cathedral, dedicated in the year 1701 to the blessed Virgin Mary, finished at the enormous expence of near 40,000*l.* sterling, embellished with most costly church furniture, antient paintings, &c. now down to the ground.

The other damages I have not been able to obtain, but they are moderately computed at two millions currency, or about three hundred and fifty thousand louis d'ors.

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## LETTER II.

*After giving nearly the same account, proceeds—*

ON the 14th in the morning, sixteen sail of ships, besides the king's frigate Atlantic, and a Spanish xebec from the Havannah, were drove from their anchors, and obliged to attempt to stand to sea. About six or seven sail of merchantmen got out, but the king's frigate, the Spanish xebec, and nine sail of merchantmen, drove on shore upon the Long Ridge, called by the inhabitants *Nep-tune's Kitchen*, were soon beat to pieces, and all hands lost. The sea beating in at the same time over the saluting battery wall and floating the grand paradise,

## LETTER III.

*From Lantfouille, Secretary to the Deputy-Governor, principal Military Secretary and Deputy Naval Officer.*

*After re-capitulating the horrors, &c. concludes—*

THE accounts delivered into our offices by order of the governor, we find now to be erroneous, for those delivered in yesterday do not agree with the former: we now make out 6,340 persons, Europeans, soldiers, sailors, country-born inhabitants, strangers, residents, mollatoes, prisoners of war, and negroes, actually missing.

*Extract of a letter from Grenada, dated Fort Royal, Oct. 22, 1780.*

I HOPE this letter will find you in health and spirits, which I assure you is not the case with us,

there having been the greatest gales of wind and surf ever known in this island. The wind lasted forty-eight hours, and the sea swelled to such a height, that it carried away the greatest part of the houses on one part of the Bay. Meritz, Hardmans, and Messrs. Ashburner, Hyde, and Co. are down; and Messrs. Robert Threlfall and Co's houses much damaged. Mr. Bennett's houses in the lower end of the Bay down, and all the other houses on that side, except the one that Messrs. Palmer and Pegus occupy which is in great danger.

The greatest part of the shipping in the Carenage on shore. All the droughers are either on shore, or lost in the different bays in the island, Messrs. Edmund, Thornton and Co's wharf carried away, also Mr. Tweedy's. All the houses in the town were full of water, and the wind so very hard, that the tiles of most of the houses were ripped off, and one house on the top of the hill carried away; all the provisions in the country carried away, and a great part of the canes; a great number of works, buildings, and negroe-houses, swept off some estates; many people have had all carried away by the river: the surf still continues high, it was up as far as Messrs. Bartlet and Company's house.

We have received accounts from St. Vincent's, that all the shipping there was on shore; a French frigate called the Juno, lost there; all the stores and provisions lost.

*A Mer-*

*A Merchant of eminence in the City has favoured us with the following letter from the island of St. Vincent, which he received by way of Holland, dated St. Vincent, Oct. 28, 1780.*

BEFORE this reaches you, perhaps you may have received information from some of the English islands of the general devastation made by the late dreadful hurricane; by the course it took, I am of opinion scarce an island but suffered very considerably, and St. Vincent's, I believe, not to be the least.

On the 6th instant, about nine in the morning, we were alarmed with the most terrible clap of thunder I ever heard in my life, which was immediately followed by a sudden darkness, attended with such terrible flashes of lightning, as foreboding a general dissolution of the world.

About noon the wind raged with the greatest violence from the N. N. W. which brought the surge of the sea close up to the governor's house.

At this period one half of the town that lay most open to the bay was entirely blown down. The wind shifting southerly, the ruins were washed into the sea, through the rapidity of the water running to the bay, by the sudden change and increase of the wind.

By eight o'clock nothing but ruins and dead bodies were floating, and driving down from the vallies into the bay. Every art to secure the governor's house and state barracks were in vain.

The three churches were blown down to the ground, as was all the remaining part of the town  
in

in the course of the night; and happy was it for those who were sheltered in the fort, which is unhurt.

In the afternoon of the 7th, the wind and storm abated, and we ventured out from the fort for about two hours, and brought in several poor inhabitants who had saved themselves by creeping in the holes of the rocks on the brink of the town, amongst whom are Madame Langue and her son, about 14 years old, whose husband was lieutenant-colonel of the army, and second in military command, who unfortunately lost his life early in the evening of the 6th; the body, we fear, is washed into the sea.

By the estimates, roughly as they are made, our loss is computed at 470,000 louis d'ors, and about 80,000 ditto, upon the king's account of stores.—The deaths very many indeed! amongst whom are some of the principal people of the island,

*Paris, 20 Jan. 1781.*—Mons. de Vergennes, secretary of state for the foreign department, has received an order of council, approved of by the king, to draw upon Mons. Neckar, in his official capacity, for a sum not exceeding one million of crowns, as a gift from the nation to the distressed inhabitants of the French West India islands. Subscriptions are also opened at the bankers houses in Paris, Nantz, &c. under the management of a committee of merchants.

## SECTION

## SECTION VI.

## ACCOUNT FROM ST. EUSTATIA.

*Extract of a letter from that Island, Oct. 25, 1780.*

**T**HE le Blonde French letter of marque going from hence to Nantz, our governor takes the opportunity of sending his dispatches, but such were never before received in Holland; no less than the total destruction of this once fertile noble settlement by a most violent hurricane.

On the 10th instant, at eleven in the morning, the sky on a sudden blackened all around; it looked as dismal as night, attended with the most violent rains, thunder, lightning, and wind ever before known.

In the afternoon the gale increased. Seven ships were drove on shore near North Point, and dashed to pieces on the rocks; they were bound for Europe, and every soul, officers and men, perished. Nineteen other ships cut their cables, and stood to sea; only one of which is returned, in a most dismal situation. We fear others have not weathered the storm.

In the night every house to the northward and southward of the settlement was blown down, and washed away, with the inhabitants, into the sea; some few only escaping, which crawled up the mountains, and hid themselves in large holes,  
among



among whom myself and wife were two : I carried her, naked as we were, upon my back, crawling up upon my hands and knees—and, thank God, miraculously escaped.

The houses to the east and west, and the plantations thereon, were not so much hurt, to which many people fled, thinking they should be safe ; but alas ! in the afternoon of the 11th, the wind on a sudden shifted to the eastward, and at night it blew with redoubled fury, and swept every house, store-house, negro-hut, sugar-house, still-house, country barracks, churches, and other edifices upon the plantations of Mess. Ooster, Rooker, Van Lewys, Vastoon, Murray, Le Breton, Van Coerffee, and the town and plantation of Oudelbergen, the village of Troubeen, and the valley Colster. The principal edifices left standing are the new and old fort, the States barracks and hospital, with the cathedral, and four other churches. The destruction of people on this melancholy event are reputed (whites and blacks) between 4 and 5000.

The pecuniary loss cannot be computed, much more ascertained at present, the whole place representing a general pile of ruin. The whites are buried on shore, but the negroes are, by order of the governor and council of state, carried at least 6 miles to sea, where they were flung overboard, with large stones tied to their feet, to prevent any ill consequences arising from being buried ashore, there being such great numbers of them.

The governor appropriates the forts, churches, &c. to the reception of the inhabitants, and the receiving such furniture and stores as may or can be saved from the ruins : and a committee of safety is appointing

appointed from the remaining few of the principal merchants, of which the governor is president, for the better conducting the business with alacrity and humanity.

Persons well known to the writer of the letter, who are now no more, principal African merchants and tradesmen.

*Men.*

Major Steward,

Capt. Friesk,

De Beck,

Friehman,

Mess. Oosteer,

Van Lewys,

Murray, sen.

Le Breton,

Vandermayne,

Puilman,

Restalmon,

Byrche,

Jacobs,

Kempenfelt,

Nichols,

Deeruynt,

*Men.*

Murray, jun.

Poldeer.

*Women.*

Lady of Capts. De Beck,

Le Breton—2 child,

Vandermayne,

Byrche,

Nichols —2 children,

Poldeer—1 child,

Mesda. D. J'Auteure,

Schorillia,

Schoinberg,

Van D'Acoft,

Four young ladies on visits from Europe."

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It does not yet appear that the Spanish Islands, or that St. Croix, which belongs to the Danes, have sustained any material damage.

## SECTION VII.

THE PETITIONS TO, AND RESOLUTIONS  
OF, THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, &c.

*In consequence of the foregoing Advices from Jamaica and Barbados, a Meeting was held on the 12th of January, by the Merchants and Planters in London, supported by the Lord Mayor, who, together with the Corporation, agreed upon the following Petitions to Parliament, previous to the Opening of other Resources in Behalf of the distressed Sufferers in those Islands.*

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*To the Honourable the House of Commons.*

WE the under-written merchants and planters, having concerns in the island of Jamaica, with all humility beg leave to inform your honours, that on the 3d of October last there happened in Westmoreland and Hanover parishes, in the island of Jamaica, a terrible earthquake, and hurricane, and inundation, which has not only overturned and destroyed most of the dwellings of the inhabitants, but has also done great damages to the crops and the fruits of the earth.

We do not pretend to be able to describe, from any advices yet received, the specific damages or particulars of the losses of the inhabitants; but we  
are

are authorized to say, that their distresses are so great and extensive, that it is not in the power of any other than the honourable house of legislature to administer to their relief, for which reason we humbly pray your honours for assistance, in immediate alleviation of their calamities, as your wisdoms shall think meet.

Signed by

STEPHEN FULLER,  
*Agent for the Island, and many other Gentlemen.*

*Presented by Lord North.*

*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain in  
Parliament assembled.*

*The humble Petition of the Planters, Merchants, and  
others, resident in England, and interested in the  
Island of Barbados, in behalf of themselves and of  
their Fellow-sufferers, the Inhabitants of the said  
Island,*

SHEWETH,

THAT the island of Barbados is the most ancient English colony in the West Indies; ever actuated by the principles of loyalty to the crown, and love of the British constitution; valued for the peculiar advantages of its situation; the number of inhabitants in proportion to its extent; and, till of late, for the fertility of its soil; and on these several accounts has been favoured with the protection, succour, and support of the parent state, to which it has never failed of making suitable returns.

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of

of gratitude and affection. The voluntary contribution of men and money during the late war, and the offers of supplies of provisions, during the present to admiral Barrington, who refused the donation, from an apprehension that the donors would themselves be distressed by such generosity, are particular recent instances of that general conduct, which has ever invariably testified the most grateful attachment and regard to this country :

That in this happy relative situation of a colony flourishing under a protecting state, the inhabitants of this island had continued for a great length of time ; truly sensible of the inestimable blessings they enjoyed under that protection, and ever deeming the continuance of it the sure and solid foundation of their welfare and prosperity, when it experienced a sad reverse of fortune. Natural evils, against which human prudence could not provide, an extraordinary failure of accustomed rains, blights of several kinds, and vermin of various descriptions spread such desolation over the country, as, within a short space of time, to diminish its annual produce to no less than half the usual quantity, to the injury of the mother country no less than to the impoverishment of the colony.

That, in this alarming situation, the people, though they sensibly felt the weight of their misfortunes, consoled themselves with the hopes of better times, and the expectation of retrieving their circumstances by redoubled diligence and œconomy. And when they were at length flattered with the agreeable prospect of a happy change, by the extraordinary appearance in the general face of the  
the

the country, on a sudden, in an awful moment, all their hopes were blasted, and the measure of their woe filled up by a most dreadful calamity; a tempest, the violence of which perhaps has never been surpassed, extending over the whole island, affecting almost every individual, and reducing to distress the greatest part of the inhabitants. Of near four hundred plantations, scarce one has escaped the general calamity; most have sustained very considerable, and many almost irreparable damage. Almost all the buildings, nearly one half of the cattle, and many slaves have been destroyed. Several towns have suffered, and the principal one in particular, in a shocking degree; and from all these causes, the inhabitants, to the amount of above 20,000 whites, were left almost destitute of habitations, food, and raiment. But as the feelings of unhappy sufferers, biased by their own particular losses, or the private accounts of others, may be thought to exaggerate the general distress, they are willing to rest this case on the official papers transmitted from the island to his majesty's ministers, to which they humbly beg leave to refer:

That in these deplorable circumstances, your petitioners are naturally led to look up, and take refuge in the humanity, liberality, and policy of this honourable house, from whence they most humbly hope to receive speedy and effectual relief; such relief as will not only secure them from impending want, but by assisting them to erect a-new their buildings, and to procure other necessaries, enable them to cultivate again their estates. Should the  
unhappy

unhappy sufferers be so fortunate as to receive from parliament such generous aid, they entertain a sanguine hope, and think it not ill-founded, that the late dreadful calamity being attended with the good effect of removing former evils, the island will soon see its ancient fertility revive, again flourish, and, in proportion to its own wealth and affluence, bring wealth and affluence to the parent state.

Your petitioners therefore most humbly pray, that this honourable House will be pleased to take the peculiar case of the island of Barbados, detached as it is from any other case, into their serious consideration, and grant the unhappy sufferers such distinct and separate relief as to this honourable House in their great wisdom shall seem meet; and your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Daniel Lascelles,  
John Brathwaite,  
William Blenman,  
John Trent,  
Thomas Walker,  
William Fitzherbert,  
John Lucie Blackman,  
John Bond,

Alexander Abraham,  
Samuel Estwick, *Agent for the Island.*

*Presented by Mr. Estwick.*

To

*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain, in  
Parliament assembled.*

*The humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen,  
and Commons of the City of London, in Common-  
council assembled,*

SHEWETH,

That your petitioners must ever be sensibly affected by every event which concerns the interests of any part of their fellow subjects, and cannot therefore be indifferent spectators of those dreadful calamities with which it has pleased Divine Providence lately to visit the British West-India islands, at a time when this nation is engaged in a war, the principal seat of which has been in that quarter of the British dominions,

Your petitioners are not insensible of the universal and unbounded benevolence of the individuals of this country, which so eminently marks the national character, and makes Britons the admiration of all foreigners.

But losses of such magnitude, and which require immediate reparation to the sufferers, in order to prevent their total ruin, must far exceed the powers of private benefactions, and (as your petitioners humbly conceive) claim immediate relief from the hand of Parliament.

Your petitioners, therefore, in behalf of their suffering fellow-subjects in the West-Indies, humbly supplicate the immediate attention of Parliament to a subject of so great importance to the commercial interests of this kingdom, and humbly pray  
that



that this honourable House will grant the sufferers such immediate and effectual relief as to them in their great wisdom shall seem meet.

*Presented at the Bar by the Sheriffs.*

On Tuesday Jan. 23d the House met for the first time since their adjournment, when the petitions aforesaid were presented, and lord North signified his majesty's approbation to the same; and the next day the House having resolved itself into a committee of supply, his lordship rose and expatiated on the nature of the misfortunes these islands had sustained by the late hurricanes, which he said had reduced them to the lowest state of wretchedness, and well intitled them to some assistance from the parent state; but it was not expected that the benevolence of this country should extend to a total indemnification for their losses; nor were the propositions he should offer formed on that idea. This calamity was a private hardship, it was true, pressing more immediately on one part of the empire; but misfortunes every part was liable to, and our own turn might be next; it could not therefore be thought reasonable that the people of this country should entirely exonerate the West Indians from the burthen of their distress. He intended to propose nothing more than a relief to the poorer class of sufferers, who were least able to support or retrieve their losses, a gift merely of benevolence, and not of reparation. As to the more opulent inhabitants, though we might, and should sympathize with their distress, circumstances considered, it would not be prudent to think of offering them any adequate relief. On this view of the business,  
it

it would be possible to do all that the house intended, without any evidence to ascertain the exact amount of the damage done : for that some instant relief was requisite, public notoriety sufficiently proved, and they might exercise their judgment in determining the quantum.

His lordship next took a comparative view of the losses sustained in the two islands of Jamaica and Barbados. In the former, two parishes only were wasted, but the whole island of Barbados was destroyed. Were the amount of the loss in point of property destroyed, however, only to be considered, or were the gift to be in proportion to the value of their commerce with this country, the two parishes in Jamaica which were injured, might claim more regard than the whole island of Barbados ; but on the principle of benevolence the latter should undoubtedly have the largest supply ; for in Jamaica very few but opulent planters had suffered, and in the other island there were vast numbers of poor entirely ruined. Besides this, it was to be remembered, that as a small part only of Jamaica had lost much by the hurricane, the remainder of that country could afford much relief to their indigent neighbours, and be able at least to supply them with viands ; while in Barbados the whole crop was destroyed, and the entire face of the country made desolate, so that the miserable poor could expect no aid from internal charity.

These reasons, his lordship said, had gone so far with some gentlemen, that they would have had the gift to one island four times as large as that to the other ; but thinking that proportion rather un-

L. reasonable,

reasonable, he should only propose that Barbados should have twice as much as Jamaica. With respect to the sum proper to be given to each, and the mode of distribution, he was of opinion, that part should be sent over in money, part in provisions and lumber, in such proportions as should be deemed best adapted to the exigencies of the sufferers, which, when arrived at the islands, should be distributed there in the most impartial manner by the vestries, assisted by the governors and council; for the particular necessities of each inhabitant could only be known on the spot.

His lordship concluded by moving, that 80,000*l.* be granted to his majesty, to be disposed of as to his majesty shall seem best, for the relief of the island of Barbados; and for that of Jamaica, 40,000*l.*

After some conversation between his lordship, Mr. Estwick, Mr. Pulteney, and Mr. Burke, in which the latter suggested that an open committee of West-India merchants in London might best direct the Treasury in the application of the money, these motions were agreed to unanimously.

Sir William Guise hinted that it would be proper these gifts should be issued from the treasury without fee or deduction; with this lord North immediately concurred, and, framing another resolution to that effect, it was also agreed to.

'Tis

'Tis unnecessary to add that the Upper-House will, undoubtedly, pass this bill into an act with equal dispatch and humanity: nothing therefore now remains, but for the public to imitate the exemplary conduct of parliament, and to promote, in conjunction with the following named committee, that plan of national benevolence, regard, and protection, which must do honour to themselves, and be rewarded with the blessings of thousands.

*The Gentlemen appointed to manage the Business of the Subscriptions.*

**P R E S I D E N T,**

The Right Honourable Sir WATKIN LEWES,  
Knight, Lord Mayor.

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A D V E R.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**HE Committee appointed for receiving subscriptions for the relief of the unhappy sufferers in Jamaica and Barbados do give notice to all bodies corporate, societies, and the public in general, that subscriptions will be received by the several bankers in London and Westminster, for this benevolent purpose. And it is requested, that all subscriptions, in any other part of Great Britain, or in Ireland, be paid into the hands of any bankers in or near the places of collection, to be by them remitted to their corresponding bankers in London, and that notice of such remittances be from time to time given to this Committee, at the Marine Society's office in Bishopsgate-street.

All bankers in Great-Britain and Ireland are requested to open subscription-books immediately, in order to promote an object of such importance.

The public may be assured, that the whole proceedings of the Committee will, from time to time, be laid before them, and the money collected applied as frugally and expeditiously as possible for the relief of the sufferers.











